THE FOURTH DAY.

8th January 1907.

The Assembly met again at 12 noon on Tuesday the 8th January 1907.

130. Desirability of constituting an Irrigation Marahmut Department for the whole State and of repairing and maintaining all irrigation sources.

Mr. Kanakku Mathevan Kesavan (*Neyyattinkara*) pointed out that no money was spent in the Neyyattinkara taluk on irrigation works during the past ten years.

Mr. A. Harihara Iyer (*Chirayinkil*) suggested that it was highly necessary to constitute an Irrigation Marahmut department, and to make annual provision in the public works budget for the repair and maintenance of the sources of irrigation.

Mr. Varkey Oothuppu (*Ettumanur*) and *Mr. Mathevan Kesavan* (*Neyyattinkara*) also spoke on the subject.

Mr. N. Madhavan Valiathan (*Tiruvallah*), *Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai and Mr. K. Kochu Thomman* (*Chengannur*), *Mr. Dominic Thomman* (*Agricultural Association, Changanachery*) *and Mr. K. Chidambara Iyer, B. A., L. T.,* (*Changanachery*) dwelt on the absence of proper irrigation works in the Quilon and Kottayam Divisions and the inadequacy of the funds allotted by Government for irrigation works in them.

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (*Tovala*) represented that little work was done in these days in the direction of repairing rain-fed irrigation tanks probably on account of the fact that the Kodayar Project was taking up all the available money. But the result of this was that the people of Nanjanad and other places suffered heavily.

Mr. K. S. Shanmukham Pillai (*Agricultural Improvement Association, South Travancore*) drew attention to the need for restoring all rain-fed tanks and feeding channels.

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Mr. Padmanabha Pillai (*Eraniel*) *and Mr. Ponniah Nadar of Eraniel* (*Nominated*) prayed that the irrigation tanks and canals of Edanad might be restored.

Mr. M. Madhavan Tampi (*Kalkulam*) remarked that even when Kodayar water might become available for the public, the necessity for the restoration and maintenance of the present irrigation tanks of Nanjanad and Edanad would still remain, as Kodayar water was not expected tc irrigate all wet lands. He suggested that this difficulty might be kept in view and steps taken for improving all the irrigation tanks of the Southern Division.

Reply.—Government are fully alive to the need for irrigation and drainage works throughout the State. The relative importance and urgency of such works in each division will be kept in view and funds allotted as far as possible. No doubt, Government are now hampered on account of the Kodayar Project works. But it is intended to the extent that finances may permit to provide for the improvement of rain-fed tanks and feeding canals and for drainage works. Already in reference to the Shencottah taluk which also depends on rain-fed tanks for irrigation, proposals have been invited from the Chief Engineer, as a result of my recent inspection, to organise a survey party to prepare a scheme of irrigation works for the taluk. In the Southern Division also, all necessary works especially in rain-fed tanks, such as closing breaches and repairing sluices, are attended to, and a definite programme for taking up the tanks systematically is under preparation. As regards the proposal for the establishment of a separate Irrigation department, it has to be stated that under the new scheme all the irrigation works in the State have been placed in charge of the Public Works Department and irrigation being a part of the work of that department for which distinct provision is made in the State budget, it does not seem necessary to constitute a separate department of irrigation either for the whole State or for any of the different divisions. The difficulty pointed out by Mr. Madhavan Tampi will also be borne in mind.

131. Disallowance of the claim of the Public Works Department to 20 feet of road fringe as Government property.

Mr. H. D. Deane (*Rubber Planters' Association*) represented that at present the Public Works Department lay claim to 20 feet

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